

VZCZCXRO9352
OO RUEHDBU RUEHFL RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHFR #1062 0781530
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 191530Z MAR 07
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5744
INFO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1173
RUCNFUR/DARFUR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHNJ/AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA PRIORITY 1149
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY 2688

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 001062

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/14/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [CD](#) [SU](#) [FR](#)
SUBJECT: FRANCE/DARFUR: ALIGNMENT ON HSP, DIVERGENCE ON
SANCTIONS DESIGNATIONS

REF: A. STATE 33367 B. 3/19 D'ELIA-PALMER E-MAIL C.
3/9-3/15 FIERST/MORRIS E-MAILS D. PARIS
3129 (2006) E. PARIS 5173 (2005) F. PARIS
6244 (2006) G. PARIS 7364 (2006)

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Josiah B. Rosenblatt. Reas
ons 1.4b,d

[¶1.](#) (C) Africa Watcher met March 16 with MFA AF DAS-Equivalent Helene Le Gal to discuss Sudanese President Bashir's rejection of the Heavy Support Package (HSP) for Darfur (Ref A). Le Gal expressed French concurrence with the USG effort to muster public denunciations of the Bashir letter, and she drew attention to March 13 and March 15 MFA statements to the press (Ref B). Le Gal mused aloud about whether South Africa would demonstrate greater engagement in addressing Darfur.

[¶2.](#) (C) Asked to clarify French views on developing sanctions designations under SCR 1591 (2005), Le Gal confirmed the MFA did not favor targeting JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim or other figures who could emerge as necessary players or interlocutors in a political process (Ref C). Better to go after criminal field commanders, she said, adding that there was no shortage of appropriate targets in that domain. Asked about reported French reservations about designating persons who were already the object of ICC investigation, e.g. Haroun, Le Gal confirmed MFA objections and gave no sign of flexibility. She explained that the ICC had made a direct request to the GoF to help avoid overlapping designations, because the ICC feared this would weaken its claims to autonomy from the UNSC.

[¶3.](#) (C) Comment: In the past, Le Gal had been Khalil Ibrahim's nemesis at the MFA. She was personally responsible for blocking the renewal of the laissez-passer normally accorded to refugees in France. This has prevented Khalil Ibrahim's return to the Schengen Zone after he departed French territory in 2006. On several occasions in 2005 and 2006, both the MFA and the French Presidency suggested to Africa Watcher that Khalil Ibrahim's designation under SCR 1591 would be welcome, as it could provide the legal grounds for the GoF to strip him of the refugee status that the French Office for Refugee Protection accorded him in December 2003 despite MFA objections (Refs D, E, F). Le Gal even went the extra mile in furnishing detailed identifiers on Khalil Ibrahim to facilitate USG procedures on sanctions designations (Ref G). In this context, French backtracking on action under SCR 1591 is intriguing; it almost certainly reflects input from N'djamena, as well as a sense that Darfur Peace Agreement Rejectionists like Khalil Ibrahim and even SLM leader (and frequent visitor to Paris) Abdulwahid El-Nur should not yet be written out of the game.

Please visit Paris' Classified Website at:
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/paris/index.cfm>

STAPLETON